

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

A listing of the claims presented in this patent application appears below. This listing replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in this patent application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image extracting apparatus comprising:
an image database containing acquiring portion which acquires a plurality of signals each representative of an image images of one or more subjects;
~~a determining portion which determines orientations the subjects based on each of the signals; and~~
~~an extracting portion which extracts a predetermined signal from among the signals based on the determination~~
a specifying device for specifying a orientation of the subject for searching an image including the subject in the specified orientation;
a determining device for determining a orientation of the subject in the images contained in the image database;
a searching device for searching an image including the subject in the specified orientation based on a result of the determining a orientation of the determining device, and
a display device for displaying the search result of the searching device.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (withdrawn): An image extracting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the signals are acquired by a digital camera photoelectrically converting the image of the subjects with a picturizing device.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): An image extracting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the acquiring portion successively acquires the signals at predetermined time intervals, and successively determines the orientation of the subjects.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): An image extracting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the signals to be acquired are generated by photoelectrically converting an optical image of the subjects, and the extracted signal is recorded onto a recording medium.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image extracting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the subjects is person's face heads.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): An image extracting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first accepting portion which accepts a specification about the orientation of the subject, wherein when the orientation of the subject is a orientation specified at the first accepting portion, the signal is extracted.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): An image extracting apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a second accepting portion which accepts a specification of a number, wherein the determining portion further determines whether a specified number of subjects in the specified orientation are present in the image or not, and when it is determined that the predetermined number of subjects are present, the signal representative of the image is extracted.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (withdrawn): An image extracting apparatus comprising:
an acquiring portion which acquires a plurality of image signals generated by continuously shooting a subject for which a predetermined orientation is defined;
a determining portion which determines an orientation of the subject in each of the images; and

an extracting portion which extracts an image signal in which the subject is in a specified orientation, from among the acquired image signals based on the determination.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): An image extracting method comprising the steps of:
accepting a specification about an orientation;
successively generating a signal by photoelectrically converting at predetermined time intervals an optical image of a subject for which a predetermined orientation is defined;
successively determining whether the orientation of the subject represented by the generated signal is a specified orientation or not in response to the successive signal generation;
and recording a signal determined to be representative of the specified orientation onto a recording medium, wherein by this recording, a subject in the specified orientation is pasteurized.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (withdrawn): An image extracting method comprising the steps of:
accepting a specification about an orientation and a specification about a number;
successively generating a signal by photoelectrically converting at predetermined time intervals an optical image including a plurality of subjects of the specified orientation;
successively determining whether the orientation of each of the subjects represented by the generated signal is the specified orientation or not in response to the successive signal generation;
determining whether at least a specified number of subjects determined to be in the specified orientation are included or not; and
recording the signal determined to include at least the specified number of subjects onto a recording medium, wherein by this recording, at least the specified number of subjects in the specified orientation are shot.

Claim 14 (new): An image extracting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the specified orientation is a frontal face orientation.

Claim 15 (new): An image extracting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specifying device further specifies a number of the subject in the specified orientation, and the searching device for searching an image in which the number of the subject in the specified orientation is equal to or larger than the specified number.

Claim 16 (new): An image extracting method comprising the steps of:
specifying a orientation of a subject for searching an image including the subject in the specified orientation;
determining an orientation of the subject in the images contained in an image database containing a plurality of images of one or more subjects;
searching an image including the subject in the specified orientation based on a result of the determining an orientation; and
displaying the search result of the searching.

Claim 17 (new): An image extracting method according to claim 16, wherein the subjects is person's face.

Claim 18 (new): An image extracting method according to claim 17, wherein the specified orientation is a frontal face orientation.

Claim 19 (new): An image extracting method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
specifying a number of the subject in the specified orientation, and
searching an image in which the number of the subject in the specified orientation is equal to or larger than the specified number.